

REMARKS

Concurrently Filed Documents

Applicant draws the Examiner's attention to the Petition for Extension of Time and Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, both of which are being filed concurrently herewith.

Status of Claims

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 58 and 59 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-16 have been cancelled and new claims 58 and 59 have been added by way of this amendment. Claims 2, 6, and 17-57 have previously been cancelled.

Reconsideration of the merits of the claimed invention is respectfully requested in light of the amendment above and the remarks that follow.

No new matter has been added as a result of the addition of claims 58 and 59. The claims correspond to cancelled claims 5 and 15, rewritten in independent form.

Claim Objections

Claim 13 was objected to for informalities. Claim 13 has been cancelled rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-12, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over US 4,512,351 in view of US 5,957,965, and claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over US 4,512,351 in view of US 5,957,965 in further view of US 5,484,445. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections to the extent it is maintained.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-12, 13, 14, and 16 have been cancelled rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of claims 5 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 58 and 59 correspond to claims 5 and 15 rewritten in independent form.

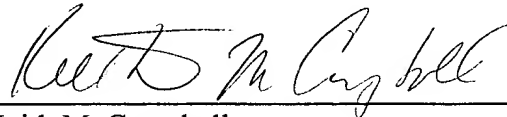
As claims 58 and 59 correspond to allowable subject matter and are the only remaining claims in the present application, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to facilitate prosecution of the present application should the Examiner have any questions.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and notice of same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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